

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/ SOV: JJKADILIS: AB

4/6/73 : 23350

APPROVED BY EUR: WSTOESSEL

EUR/ SOV: HSOKUN

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, US, UR

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

1. MINISTER COUNSELOR VORONTSOV OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY CAME AT HIS REQUEST ON APRIL 5 TO SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. APPARENTLY ANXIOUS TO GET ON TO ANOTHER SUBJECT, VORONTSOV HANDED STOESSEL A NOTE IN RUSSIAN, WITHOUT THE CUSTOMARY READING IN ENGLISH. HE MADE NO COMMENTS, OTHER THAN TO IDENTIFY THE SUBJECT AND TO ASK THAT WE GIVE A REPLY.

2. WE WILL SEND A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE NOTE SEPTEL. THE GIST OF IT IS THAT THE SOVIETS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE
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TO COMPLETING THE RATIFICATION PROCESS, AND ARE TAKING
STEPS TO DO SO THEMSELVES. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, THE
NOTE STATES, FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE PRACTICAL
STEPS TO SPEED UP THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION.
STOESSEL THANKED VORONTSOV FOR THE NOTE, AND REMARKED THAT
THERE HAD BEEN SOME DELAY IN THE SENATE
BUT THAT WE STILL HOPED FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE
RATIFICATION PROCESS. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT
TO PREDICT WHEN THIS WOULD HAPPEN, BUT THAT THE SOVIET
STATEMENT WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS REGARD. STOESSEL ADDED
THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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